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2182 *ch*

PATENT
450100-03261

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Shigeyoshi HIRASHIMA et al.
Serial No. : 09/894,689
Filed : June 27, 2001
For : CONNECTION APPARATUS, CONNECTING METHOD, AND
STORAGE MEDIUM FOR STORING COMPUTER-READABLE
PROGRAM HAVING CONNECTING FUNCTIONS
Art Unit : 2182

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
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Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in
37 C.F.R. 1.56, applicants are filing this Information Disclosure
Statement and the accompanying form PTO-1449 along with copies of
the prior art therein identified. Such prior art has come to the
attention of applicants by being cited in a Search Report issued

in the corresponding European application on January 2, 2003. So far as applicants are aware, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not an admission that the documents identified herein constitute prior art to the present application.

Please charge any fees incurred by the filing of this document or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attorneys for Applicants

By: 

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Based on Form PTO-1449
(3/90)

LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT
(Use several sheets if necessary)

ATTY. DOCKET NO.
450100-03261

SERIAL NO.
09/894,689

APPLICANT
Shigeyoshi HIRASHIMA et al.

FILING DATE
June 27, 2001

GROUP
2182

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	6 041 183	03/21/00	Hayafune et al.			
	AB	5 897 607	04/27/99	Jenney et al.			
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO	
	AL	EP 0 873 873	10/28/98	Europe				
	AM							
	AN							
	AO							
	AP							

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AQ		

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED

* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.